



VICTORY

FLASHES

May 27, 1944
Number 36

Good Morning:

We got on the job early this morning to write this letter before the day's usual interruptions begin, but it looks as though we should have had an even earlier start. The only way to avoid interruptions in this office--a catch-all for everything that comes down the pike--is to throw the telephones out of the window. But this letter has a Double A-1 priority on our list so here goes--

This seems like as good a time as any to tell you about our Commencement plans. Once again we've streamlined everything into a single day to comply with our accelerated program. Commencement will be held on Sunday, June 25 at 3:30 p.m. and the baccalaureate service will be held at 10:30 o'clock that morning. The commencement speaker will be Captain John Kelvev Richards USN, who needs no introduction to you Navy men who had your training in New York. A Navy man since he was graduated from Annapolis in 1912, Captain Richards is now the commanding officer of the United States Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School in New York. Rev. Henry Cornehlson of Easton will preach the baccalaureate sermon. If you're in this section of the country on that day, drop in. There will be room for you in the chapel.

Following the policy adopted last year, there will be no alumni activities other than to honor the Golden Anniversary Class of 1894 at the commencement ceremonies. We've cancelled all major alumni affairs until all of you fellows can come back for the Victory Reunion. However, a committee of the Allentown Alumni Club is meeting this afternoon to plan a pre-commencement party (in typical Allentown Club fashion) on Friday, June 23. It will be an open affair--and that means the red carpet and the welcome mat will be rolled out for any of you fellows who can manage to make it. We'll give you the details in the next letter.

We've just come back from the annual session of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. There we managed to have a few words with some of Muhlenberg's men who are serving as chaplains. Among them were Major Edward Mattson '24, now at Camp Forrest, Tenn.; Captain James F. Patterson '30, back at Sioux Falls, S.D. after more than a year with the Eighth Army Air Force in England; Captain Gomer S. Rees '23, home on his second leave from Newfoundland; Captain John H.K. Miller '32, Key Field, Meridan, Miss.; and Lieutenant Arthur Chatten '29 of the Navy, who saw plenty of action and some Muhlenberg men during more than a year and a half in the islands of the South Pacific. We don't mean to omit any names, but we weren't in Philadelphia for the session at which the chaplains were introduced. We know there were a few others on hand.

The record of the baseball team now stands at six wins and two losses. Since we wrote our last letter, we lost to Villanova by an 11 to 3 score, then came back to defeat Swarthmore 7 to 4. The tennis team is still operating on the red side of the ledger and has two more defeats on the books--a 9 to 0 licking from Penn State and a 5 to 4 loss to Swarthmore.



The track team came through with flying colors two weeks ago when for the second consecutive year it captured the track and field championship of the Middle Atlantic States College Athletic Association on the Muhlenberg field. The civilian-military team scored in all but one event and took three first places for a total of 58 5/6 points. Swarthmore finished second with 47 points, F. and M. was third, Ursinus came in fourth, and Rutgers finished fifth. Haverford, Lehigh, St. Joseph's and Gettysburg finished in that order.

The Loyalty Fund has just passed the \$3,000 mark--thanks to the generosity of many of you fellows in service. We want to assure you right now that your contributions to the Loyalty Fund aren't being used to pay for the war-time program of the Alumni Office. The civilian alumni are paying for that job and your contributions are being ploughed right back into the work of the College to assure you of a greater and better equipped Muhlenberg when you come back. You'll find a detailed account of the fund in the May issue of the Alumni Magazine, now in the hands of the printer. Meanwhile, the Loyalty Fund drive goes on and the books will remain open until June 30, the end of our fiscal year.

As of today we have 1,115 Muhlenberg men on our service roster, ten of them designated with Gold Stars. The tenth Gold Star was added last Sunday when Captain John J. Bortz '26 died in San Francisco where he had been attached to a blood procurement center after having been transferred from more active duty because of a heart ailment.

On the afternoon of Memorial Day the College and its Navy unit will hold a Memorial Service of their own to honor those who have given their lives for their country, those who are missing in action, and you fellows who are fighting on all fronts and who are in training to win the ultimate Victory and for whose safe and early return we hope and pray.

Men who trained on the campus with the first V-12 unit from last July to October are beginning to go into action around the world. A letter came in the other day from Ensign Jim Hemstreet '44, now on an L.C.T. somewhere on the other side of the world. While he was stationed in North Africa, he staged a one-man hunt for Cpl. Harold Helfrich '44, but missed him by a good many months. Helfrich, according to our latest information, is now somewhere in India.

Also on the hunt is Second Lieutenant Philip Vooz '44, now stationed in England. His address is APO 16056-DA-43, which is a brand new one to us. Since leaving Georgia, he has done some travelling in Newfoundland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and England. Right now he is anxious to establish contact with any other Muhlenberg men in England.

About the only reunions that are being held this year are those of Muhlenberg men who meet each other around the world. Lieutenant (j.g.) Wilmer Cressman writes of a reunion somewhere in the South Pacific with Ensign Fritz Raker '40. Cressman says that his wife (she's a swell girl) is as much interested in Muhlenberg as he is and that's what we like to hear. Captain Frederick R. Bausch '31 was in Africa only long enough to discover that Oran is a modern city with plenty of wine and champagne--a little more than some of the boys could take. He's in Italy now where they drink wine instead of water.

"How I wish I could sprawl on the campus and lie in that spring sun you are now having," writes Lieutenant (j.g.) Ray K. Heist '33 from his ship that has a San Francisco Fleet Post Office address. He says he has run into quite a few Navy pilots who had part of their training in the V-5 unit at Muhlenberg and from them has learned that Haps carries on as ever. He can say that and really mean it. We'll verify it. Pvt. Carl S. Swartz '38 doesn't find the climate of New Guinea too objectionable. Just to prove it he sent us a little poem we are quoting in part:

Somewhere in New Guinea
Where the rain is like a curse
Each day is followed
By another slightly worse.
Where your tent is always muddy
And your clothes are always damp
Where shaving is a fortune
And a man feels like a tramp.

Somewhere in New Guinea
Where the ants and lizards play,
And a hundred fresh mosquitos
Replace everyone we slay.
So take me back to Allentown
Where the drug store cowboys yell
For this God-Forsaken outpost
Is a substitute for Hell.

During eighteen months overseas, Ira Koplin '42 has become convinced that there is none like the American girl anywhere in the world. Sgt. William Richards '44 sent us a pound note from England for the Loyalty Fund. With it came an interesting story about visits to two theatres. With a former Colgate University student, he attended a matinee performance of "Hamlet" in a London theatre. A little old lady sitting next to him became friendly with the two soldiers during the various intermissions and wound up by giving them an introduction to the manager of "Her Theatre" with a note that he should give them the best seats in the house. You can imagine their surprise when they discovered that the "little old lady who was over eighty and still going strong" was the proprietor of the Windmill, London's longest run burlesque show.

Although Donald A. Hausman '36 admits he is not in London for a pleasure trip, he says he is managing to enjoy himself in his spare time. Music has always been his Number 1 hobby and he's continuing it by playing for various Red Cross and servicemen's affairs.

From a fox hole somewhere on a Southwest Pacific island came a long overdue letter from Scrapper Farrell '43, reintroduced to you in the last letter as "Father" Farrell. He's the fourth Mule to write about the reunion in New Caledonia with Watson '42, Garrettson '37, Doabler '38, and Moran '43. But he also reports meeting Stuffy Heffner '39. Stuffy has been in action three times and Farrell reports that if you ever saw a well-built blocking back it's Stuffy. Scrapper has also had his baptism of fire with the now famous Americal Division.

Lieutenant George E. Legg '37, with the Navy Medical Corps, has been on duty with a Marine Fighter Squadron for the past year, the last half of which was spent at a place that has a San Francisco Fleet Post Office address. You can take it from George that the Marines really do know how to dish it out to Tojo's boys. The thought that this is his graduation year prompted Lieutenant F.H. Baver '44 to drop us a line from his "super deluxe fox hole" somewhere across the Atlantic--at least it has a New York APO address.

Seaman Second Class Wayne Holben, who used to be a part-time assistant in this office, contributes this one from the Naval Training Station at Bainbridge. If you want to sing it, use the tune to Mairzy Doats:

Spar Swear Blew and Tar Swear Blew
And Liddle Scoud Swear Caki.
A Whackle Wear Caki Too, Wouldn't You?
Gobz likz kertz, M'reenz are flertz
And Liddle Do-Boiz wistle
A Foreffel wistle too, Wouldn't you.

Chief Warrant Officer Karl R. Reinhard, now in New Guinea, crashed through the other day with some kind words about the mail he has received from the College in Australia, New Guinea, and some other posts since he went overseas almost two years ago. We've also heard from such fellows as Pete Schneider '42, Keesler Field, Mississippi; from Lieutenant Robert B. Rowland '41, at the Station Hospital, Ft. Jackson, S.C.; Lieutenant Paul Nicholas '40, in Boston; Ensign Fred Bowman '44, in Chicago; Private First Class Warren Nafis '43, in medical school; and Ensign W. Warren Swenson '43, another of the boys who has gone to sea, but we're reserving those letters for a little later.

Here are the promotions we've noted during the past two weeks:
COMMANDER Robert S. Snyder '30; CORPORAL Charles F. Krauss '46; CORPORAL William Gantert '27; AIR CADET George R. Hood '46; CORPORAL Robert Humphrey '44; SECOND LIEUTENANT Paul O. Proehl '39; SECOND LIEUTENANT James R. McGinley '45; CORPORAL William L. Rizos '46; SERGEANT Howard L. Keiper '45; CORPORAL Brooke Shoemaker '42; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Arthur A. Fierro '44; SERGEANT Joseph F. Fleischmann '45; SERGEANT Nathan O. McWaters '45; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Paul A. Stover '44; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Kenneth Stone '44; ENSIGN Dennis Webster '43; CORPORAL Arthur DeMartini '45; LIEUTENANT (J.G.) Paul McGinley '38; CAPTAIN David Helms '32; MAJOR Henry A. Pierce '30; LIEUTENANT Samuel H. Ottinger '43; LIEUTENANT Pern B. Anthony '44; and SECOND LIEUTENANT Paul Balze '44.

Here are the new names that have been added during the past two weeks:

A/S George Howatt '40, Pln. G.S. 587, Area A8, Camp Peary, Va.
Pvt. Carl F. Knowles '44, Army Finance Sch., Duke Univ., Durham, N.C.
A/C Robert K. Kinard '42, USNR - USNAS, Bunker Hill, Ind.
Pfc. Albert C. Grunow '43, ASTP, 3305 SU, Univ. of Penna., Phila, Pa.
Chaplain John Stump '37 USNR, 2006 Washington Ave., Northampton, Pa.
Lt. Hubert C. Meyers '36, Ancon, Canal Zone
A/S Winfield Kistler '34, Outfit 4204, Co. 4303, Bainbridge, Md.
Lt. Wm. G. Swoish '41, Co. M. 343 Inf., 86th Div. Camp Livingston, La.
A/S Allan A. Ritter '33, Btn. G.S. 673, Unit C-3, Camp Peary, Va.
Lt. George F. Reichwein '40, Methodist Hosp. Broad & Wolf Sts., Phila.
Pvt. Robert J. Lieberman '40, 33833365 BAAF, Ft. Myers, Fla.

We have space for some more mail, so here goes:

We've heard through the grapevine that Martin Fels '42 has been graduated from a Navy Hospital Corps Training School with an average of 99.33, one of the highest ever attained in the school. He was honor man of a class of 473 men and has his rating as Pharmacist Mate third class. Talking about hospitals, Pfc. Earl Ritter '29 has had plenty of experience with them. He was hospitalized for ten months suffering from rheumatic fever but is now on the staff of the ground training school at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla.

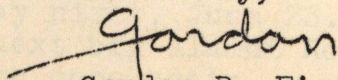
There have been a number of letters like this one from Corporal Henry C. Harner '44, now at Camp McCain, Mississippi: "I hope not too far off may come the day when I can be back on the campus again." We will be ready for you, Hank, and for the rest of you Muhlenberg men who plan to return to complete your college work. Now that the GI bill has been approved, you'll have a grand chance to complete your education when Victory comes and we'll be ready to help you--and your friends. Tell them about this College and what it can do for them.

Another of the boys who had plenty of experience with hospitals was Midshipman Fred A. Heuer '44, who had a long siege of cat fever shortly after reporting to the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School in Chicago. He missed one complete class, but now is hard at work in the nineteenth class. His college roommate, Alan G. Stead '43 graduated earlier this month from the School and was commissioned as an ensign and was assigned to an LCI. Sergeant J.P. Fleischmann '45, assigned to a Surgical Technician's School at the Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, says it's like a dream after having been stationed in Alabama.

Those interruptions we told you about when we started this letter EARLY this morning really came through with a vengeance. But we were glad for one of them--a meeting with Allentown alumni who planned that pre-commencement party we told you about a little earlier. It will be held at the Livingston Club in Allentown on Friday, June 23 at 8p.m. and will be a tribute (Alumni style) to Muhlenberg's 1,115 men in service. We'd like to see as many of you there as can make it.

Elsie says she's hungry. So--until another two weeks roll along we'll be thinking of you and wishing you the best in everything.

Sincerely,



Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office